

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04
SIL-01 SY-05 MCT-02 IO-13 /097 W
-----107913 161603Z /45

O R 161529Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7016
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 6356

USEEC

DEPT FOR ARA LABOR ADVISOR O'GRADY: PLEASE PASS
AFL-CIO AND AIFLD

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS ELAB, SHUM, PINS, ICFTU, AR
SUBJECT PROMINENT PERONIST LABOR LEADER REPORTEDLY ABDUCTED

1. ACCORDING TO A NEWS REPORT, ROBERTO GARCIA,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE TAXI DRIVERS UNION, MEMBER
OF THE "COMMITTEE OF 5" AND RECENTLY SELECTED
ARGENTINE REPRESENTATIVE ON THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE WAS ABDUCTED BY A GROUP OF MEN IN
CIVILIAN CLOTHING IN THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 15
AT A STREET CORNER NEAR HIS UNION HEADQUARTERS IN
BUENOS AIRES.

2. GARCIA IS THE VISIBLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
VERTICALIST PERONIST PARTY LABOR CAUCUS IN THE
COMMITTEE OF 5 AND 25. FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE "COMMITTEE
OF 9," THE CAUCUS WHICH IS ALIGNED WITH JAILED EX LABOR
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BOSS LORENZO MIGUEL RECENTLY WAS EXPANDED AND REORGANIZED
INTO A POLITICO/LABOR PROTO-PARTY CALLED THE "PERONIST
TRADE UNION MOVEMENT." GARCIA HOLDS THE TITLE OF
SECRETARY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ON THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE OF THIS MOVEMENT. (THIS MOVEMENT HAS SUB ROSA
TIES WITH ADMIRAL MASSERA'S POLITICAL ORGANIZATION MEN.)

3. TWO DAYS AGO, GARCIA TOLD AIFLD REPRESENTATIVE CAZARES AND LABATT THAT LABOR MINISTER LIENDO, DURING THE ILO CONFERENCE IN JUNE IN GENEVA, HAD THREATENED THE ARGENTINE LABOR DELEGATION THAT, UNLESS THEY MODIFIED THEIR PREPARED ADDRESS TO THE ILC, HE WOULD HAVE THEM ARRESTED WHEN THEY RETURNED TO BUENOS AIRES. THE DELEGATION REJECTED LIENDO'S REQUEST. GARCIA, WHO IS ONE OF THE MOST OUT-SPOKEN LABOR LEADERS ON THE SCENE TODAY IN HIS CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES, REPORTEDLY TOLD LIENDO HE WAS PREPARED FOR ARREST AS LONG AS IT WOULD NOT BE VIA ABDUCTION WITH A HOOD OVER HIS HEAD. THIS STORY HAS BEEN MAKING ITS ROUNDS IN UNION CIRCLES.

4. WE HAVE JUST HEARD THAT GARCIA REAPPEARED THIS MORNING (AUGUST 16) AND THAT HE HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT DENYING THAT HE HAD BEEN ABDUCTED. PRESS RESOURCES BELIEVE THAT HE WAS ARRESTED BY SECURITY AGENTS YESTERDAY AND RELEASED THIS MORNING. WE ARE CHECKING FURTHER.

CASTRO

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